

Manitoba

Benefiting from its central location in North America and its diversified economy, Manitoba has seen its trade expand rapidly in recent years. Merchandise exports in 1999 were more than 80 percent higher than in 1992, for an average annual growth of about 10 percent. Among the major contributors to export growth were agriculture, mining and manufacturing. Recent years have brought strong growth in exports of agri-food, such as grains and oilseeds, vegetables and vegetable products, and hog and cattle products; accounting for much of the success have been Maple Leaf Foods and J.M. Schneider. In manufacturing, the strongest export growth in the 1990s was in machinery and transportation equipment, with leading firms being Bristol Aerospace, Boeing and other aerospace companies, Ford New Holland (farm implements), New Flyer Industries (buses) and Motor Coach Industries. Manitoba's merchandise imports also rose rapidly in the 1990s, as a result of purchases of manufactured products. The merchandise trade flow was in near balance over the decade. It reverted to a surplus position in 1999, as exports edged down slightly while imports fell by 9.8 percent. Manitoba had a persistent services trade deficit in the 1990s.

New Brunswick

Among New Brunswick's chief export sectors are forest products (including newsprint, lumber and pulp), coal, food products (including meat, fish, dairy, fruit, potatoes, vegetables and feed), shipbuilding, zinc and lead metals, and the rapidly expanding sale of petroleum products to markets in the eastern United States. The province exported electricity, purchased from Hydro-Québec, to Maine. Among imports, the most important category was that of crude petroleum, used at the Saint John refinery. From 1994, New Brunswick's merchandise trade was in a deficit position as imports grew at a rate of 9.6 percent per year, outstripping the 7.4 percent annual growth in exports. The merchandise trade deficit rose to \$0.86 billion in 1999, as trade growth was stronger in imports (14.2 percent) than exports (11.2 percent). New Brunswick's services trade flow improved to near-balance in 1997 and 1998.

Newfoundland

Newfoundland's key export industries are fishing, mining and newsprint. Exports grew strongly by 12.5 percent per year in the 1990s, although they were hampered by restrictions under the Moratorium on Northern Cod, imposed in July 1992. With the beginning of offshore oil production from the Hibernia project, petroleum started to play a rising role in exports. Potential export sources are nickel from Inco's Voisey's Bay deposit and oil from Terra Nova. Imports also grew at a double-digit annual rate, dominated by machinery and equipment, motor vehicles, electrical and communications products, and construction materials. The province enjoyed a persistent merchandise trade surplus, which more than offset the small services trade deficit. In 1999, both merchandise exports and imports were up by 10.7 percent.

Nova Scotia

Foreign trade plays an important role in the economy of Nova Scotia, which is a strategic shipping link between Europe and the U.S. ports of Boston and New York. In the 1990s, export sales were led by fish and forestry products, such as newsprint and paper. Also significant were exports of automotive products from manufacturing facilities established by Michelin and Volvo. Another source of economic activity was tourism. Accounting for the bulk of imports were transportation products and parts, and crude petroleum destined for refineries for domestic consumption. Nova Scotia was the only province to record persistent deficits in both goods and services. However, in the 1990s the merchandise balance improved as exports grew at an annual rate of 10.3 percent, exceeding the 7.7 percent growth in imports. The merchandise trade deficit fell sharply in 1999 to \$0.29 billion; exports increased by 15.6 percent and imports fell by 11.3 percent.

